

# STEVEN ZEVITAS GALLERY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BEN SLOAT: *ONE BLAST***

**Boston** – Steven Zevitas Gallery is pleased to present *One Blast*, an exhibition of new paintings and a room-sized installation by Boston-based artist, **Ben Sloat**. The exhibition will be on view from Thursday, September 5 through Saturday, October 12, 2013, with an opening reception Friday, September 6th.

**On View:** September 5 – October 12, 2013

**Opening Reception:** Friday, September 6, 2013, 5:30 – 8 PM

Sloat's artistic practice has always involved a wide range of media and conceptual directions. For *One Blast*, Sloat focused his energies on painting, while consciously jettisoning the weight that comes from the medium's long history. The exhibition consists of eleven new paintings and one room-sized installation.

Sloat is interested in the role that technology plays in generating contemporary aesthetic structures. The group of paintings that he presents in *One Blast* are essentially experiments in layering and materializing data imagery. For the large painting, *Swell (New Dawn Fades)*, Sloat conflated an image of a dazzle ship (a World War I vessel that, by virtue of its shape and color, was difficult to track) with a visualization of pulsar signals which comprise the waves. This painting was then photographed and inverted digitally, creating a visual template for the companion painting, *Swell (Midnight Rises)*. The inability of the computer to select the water imagery evenly resulted in a new visual form for the waves, and in doing so exposed innovative methods of artistic production in the midst of technological failure. Similarly, in *Transmission*, a series of six paintings with imagery taken from analog video stills from the 1980's, new visual structures are generated due to interference from a live transmission.

The room-sized installation, *One Blast*, began as a photograph of a broken window near the artist's studio in Boston. Imagining the lines of the cracks extending into an entire environment, Sloat began the piece by drawing a series of lines from the photo print, which he then digitized and pixilated. Architectural rendering software was subsequently used to turn the imagery into three-dimensional forms. The room was finally transformed using laser cut masonite panels. The title, *One Blast*, which is an anagram of the artist's name, relates to the idea of a single explosion event creating an immersive shattered environment, but also refers to the first art and literary magazine of the Vorticists, *BLAST 1*, which posited new idealized aesthetic and social roles for the technological future.

Sloat received a BA from the University of California, Berkeley in 1999 and an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in 2005. In 2009, he was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholar's Grant. Recent solo exhibitions include shows at Coop Gallery in Nashville, TN; NLH Space in Copenhagen, Denmark; and Laroche/Joncas in Montreal, Canada. This is Sloat's second one-man exhibition at Steven Zevitas Gallery.

The artist will be in attendance for an opening reception on Friday, September 6th from 5:30 – 8:00 PM. For additional information, please contact Steven Zevitas at 617.778.5265 (ext. 22). *Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11AM – 5 PM.*